

I am now able to deal in more detail with the points raised in STATINTL your letter of 31st October concerning the Dataphone equipment. I am hoping that this letter will arrive in time for the discussion with our engineer on the 29th November. I have numbered items to correspond with those in your letter:- STATINTL

1. The doubtful points have mostly been clarified in your latest specification.
2. The final sequence appears to be consistent with the information coming from the digitiser. The change from E.O.T. to space on the 12 position rotaries is noted.
3. Regarding the blanking out of groups of X and Y values in the sequence, this would be relatively simple as applied to the Dataphone message only, provided it did not involve shortening the message length. However, if the teletype sequence is being done with solid state circuitry, either shared with or separate from the Dataphone sequence, it would appear to be necessary to switch to alternative group selector rings for the different sequences since missing out steps in a solid state, shift register is liable to be an awkward operation. This requirement would certainly complicate the equipment and if it is not absolutely necessary, we should prefer if it could be deleted.

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4. It is agreed that the sign is no longer required.
5. It is agreed that solid state logic is to be used in the starting and finishing sequence.
6. The ± 8 volt supplies would be from a stable source.
7. It is necessary to divine whether the typewriter sequence has to run at the same time as the Dataphone transmission, in which case the Dataphone transmission would have to be slowed down to a rate of 60 bits per second or alternatively, whether it is to be tacked on to the end of the Dataphone sequence.

In the former case, the Dataphone sequence would be slowed down to something in the region of 5 to 10 seconds; in the latter case, the Dataphone sequence would be completed in under a second and the separate typewriter sequence in about 5 seconds.

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The quotation for a standard printout sequence supplied to Messrs. [redacted] copy to you, dated 7th September, was based on one identical to that supplied on the previous [redacted] machines involving a combination of an [redacted] electric typewriter and [redacted] tape punch. The price quoted for this will not now apply since a) the printout device has changed to a teletype page printer, b) the sequence, if it is to follow the Dataphone sequence, is different, and c) although this is not specifically stated, it is assumed that solid state circuitry is preferred for this item also.

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When it is established exactly how the typewriter sequence fits in with the Dataphone sequence, we shall be in a position to give an amended quotation on this item.

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8. The layout of the [redacted] control panel is noted. It is not immediately obvious which switches on this panel relate to which switches in the specification, and this can probably be cleared up at the meeting in Washington with our representative. Similarly, switch types and lead lengths can be discussed.
9. The teletype printer lead length is noted. If the teletype sequence is independent of, rather than being a slowed-down version of the Dataphone sequence, a serialiser attachment will be required. Having a Dataphone outfit [redacted] would probably be of assistance during the latter stages of design and testing of the equipment. Definite arrangements on this point can be made at some future date.

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10. The following points in our statements 6,7,8,10 and 11 require further clarification:-

8. The question of how important time-saving is during the Dataphone sequence would determine whether we use standard or non-standard selector rings and we should like to have clarification of this point.

In general, the main point on which further clarification is required is exactly how the Dataphone and teletype sequences fit in with each other. There is also the question of whether the teletype is always in operation or if it has to be switched in and out and how much of the Dataphone sequence it is desired to record on the printed page. If the complete Dataphone sequence is not to be recorded, can time be allowed for the complete sequence to be gone through at teletype speed, but with the undesired characters blanked out.

The delivery terms would still be as given in our quotation of 7th September.

We have just received your cable telling us to proceed with the solid state design so that delivery would be 10 months from today (26th November) although since some development has already been done on the solid state building bricks, we should try to improve on this.

Yours sincerely,

STATINTL

MANY THANKS YOUR CABLE REGARDING CONFIRMATION ON DATAPHONE
STOP LETTER POSTED OUR ENGINEER [REDACTED] COPY TO YOU RAISING
CERTAIN TECHNICAL QUESTIONS STOP SUGGEST DISCUSSIONS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] PURELY COVER TECHNICAL ASPECTS STOP ON BASIS [REDACTED]
REPORT WE CAN RECONFIRM PRICE STRUCTURE
[REDACTED]

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CONFIRM WHETHER DATAPHONE EQUIPMENT IS TO BE SUPPLIED WITH
4 AXES DIGITISER PRODUCED AND PUT INTO STORAGE AGAINST PREVIOUS
ENQUIRY STOP COST OF DIGITISER NOT INCLUDED IN DATAPHONE QUOTATION
STOP COPY OF LETTER [REDACTED] SHOULD HAVE REACHED YOU WITH TECHNICAL
QUERIES
[REDACTED]

(4 AXES)

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